

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: April 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on April 13, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Consent Agreement and Final Order, High-Po-Chlor, Romulus, Michigan

On April 3, 2007, the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section filed a joint Administrative Complaint and Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) against High-Po-Chlor, Romulus, Michigan. The CAFO alleges violations of the Clean Air Act, Risk Management Program regulations, 40 CFR Part 68. The High-Po-Chlor facility failed to timely submit and register their plan and failed to adequately implement their program. The High-Po-Chlor, Romulus, facility is a Program Level 3 facility that produces sodium hypochlorite. High-Po-Chlor has agreed to pay a cash penalty of \$1,000 and has agreed to install a safety valve closure system on its rail car filling lines as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The value of the SEP is \$35,607.00.

Contact: Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

Complaint Filed, Land O'Lakes, Kiel, Wisconsin

On March 30, 2007, U.S. EPA filed a Complaint against Land O'Lakes, Kiel, Wisconsin, for violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)

and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) reporting requirements. The Complaint alleged that Land O'Lakes, failed to immediately notify the National Response Center, Wisconsin State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and Calumet County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a release of 181 pounds of chlorine which occurred from their facility on October 8, 2004. All three entities received notification over 2 hours after the release began. In addition, Land O'Lakes failed to submit a written follow-up report to the SERC and LEPC as soon as practicable after the release. Chlorine is a CERCLA hazardous substance and an EPCRA extremely hazardous substance with a 10 pound reportable quantity. The release occurred when a transfer hose was hooked up to the wrong tank causing a chemical reaction. The delivery truck driver was directed to the wrong receiving line by a Land O'Lakes employee. A load of sodium hydroxide was added to a tank of nitric acid causing chlorine to be released. The total proposed penalties are \$179,828. Land O'Lakes has 30 days to answer the complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Inspections,
Smith Metal Finishing and Reckon Plating, Ft. Wayne, Indiana**

On March 14-15, 2007, Senior Environmental Employment Program personnel, George Rancich and William Sandstrom, in the Chemical and Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted two Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. These inspections were at facilities in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 3471 (Metal Finishing and Electroplating). The facilities inspected were Smith Metal Finishing and Reckon Plating. Smith Metal Finishing is a job shop anodizer of aluminum and uses/stores sulfuric acid. Reckon Plating uses acid copper and cyanide copper, nickel, chrome, and gold plating processes. The inspection at Reckon was conducted at the request of the Ft. Wayne Fire Department and a fire department inspector participated in the inspection. These inspections were conducted to determine if the facilities have chemical storage reporting requirements under EPCRA 312 and to determine their compliance with those requirements. The results of the inspections will be reviewed by CEPPS to determine if follow up action is appropriate.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

Risk Management Planning Inspection, Water Treatment Plants, Anderson, Indiana

On March 27, 2007, Greg Chomycia, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted an inspection in Anderson, Indiana. The inspection was conducted at the water treatment plants for the facility. The City uses chlorine to treat drinking water at two locations in the City. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program that the facility has in place as required under the Risk Management Program regulations mandated under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. The results of the inspection are being evaluated by CEPPS staff.

Contact: Greg Chomycia (312-353-8217)

Inspection, Dover Chemical Company, Hammond, Indiana

On March 28, 2007, Edward Bordy, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, conducted an inspection at the Dover Chemical Company in Hammond, Indiana. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program for the storage and use of chlorine. This facility manufactures products used by the metal working industry.

Contact: Edward Bordy (312-353-3191)

Inspection, Cathay Pigments (USA) Inc., Valparaiso, Indiana

On March 29, 2007, Edward Bordy, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, conducted an inspection at Cathay Pigments (USA) Inc., in Valparaiso, Indiana. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program for the storage and use of anhydrous ammonia. This facility manufactures pigments.

Contact: Edward Bordy (312-353-3191)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Spill of National Significance Final Planning Conference, Memphis, Tennessee**

On March 27-29, 2007, there was a Spill of National Significance 2007 (SONS 07) final planning conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

In attendance from U.S. EPA Region 5 were Sheila Calovich, Mark Durno, Pam Gallichio, Barbi Lee, Ginny Narsette, Alex Tzallas, Ann Whelan, Elisa Speisman, and Jack Barnette. This was the final meeting before the SONS 07 exercise in June that included all the Federal and State partners. Four Region 5 States were in attendance: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The conference was an opportunity for the exercise venues to report on their exercise activities. Sheila Calovich, who serves as the SONS exercise lead controller, briefed participants on how control will work during the exercise. Ginny Narsette, who serves as the U.S. EPA Public Information lead, briefed the participants on the plans of both real and play media events. Ann Whelan, SONS exercise Director, made several presentations during the conference, including opening and closing remarks. The SONS 07 exercise is scheduled for the week of June 18, 2007.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

**CAMEO Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
Training, Springfield, Illinois**

On March 14-15, 2007, John Elkmann, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, held a two-day class in Computer Aided Management Emergency Operations (CAMEO) for Local Emergency Planning Committee members and emergency responders in Springfield, Illinois. Planners and responders from five Illinois Counties attended. Additionally, several members of Illinois Emergency Management Agency responsible for Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act planning attended.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
Scott Sherman (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OSWER)
Ed Chu (OSWER)
David Lopez (OSRTI)
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)
Susan Bromm (OECA)
Catherine McCabe (OECA)
Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Craig Beasley (OEM)
Jim Woolford (OSRTI)
Gail Cooper (FFRRO)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors